

JSMF Public Radio News

Radio for People Who Listen

A Publication of the Jack Straw Foundation

September 1990

FCC Awards KSER Permit

Local public radio in Snohomish County came closer to reality this month with the issuance of a broadcast construction permit to KSER-FM, Everett.

The Federal Communications Commission has concluded a 2-year review of technical issues by authorizing construction of KSER by the Jack Straw Foundation. The Foundation is building studio and transmission facilities at a location near SW 148th and Highway 99, according to Station Manager Nancy Keith.

The FCC permit authorizes KSER to broadcast a radio signal that will cover most of Snohomish County and parts of King, Island and Jefferson Counties.

"We hope to have the station on the air at 90.7 FM by December, 1990," said Keith. "KSER will broadcast a wide variety of arts and public affairs programs with a strong local emphasis and no commercials."

Keith describes KSER as community radio, a form of public radio with a varied schedule and a strong reliance on volunteers. "We think of this as radio for the adventurous listener. We'll combine some outstanding news and public affairs programs from national sources with a larger number of talk and music programs produced here in Snohomish County. Our staff will train volunteers in all aspects of broadcasting."

KSER Music Director Stu Witmer is currently recruiting local people to create the programs. Music programs will include classical, jazz, folk and world music, and some experimental music. "We specialize in music that's hard to find anywhere else on the dial," he says. "We're looking for program hosts among the knowledgeable and passionate collectors, who want to share a great personal collec-

tion of something like jazz, opera, bluegrass or polkas."

KSER will also offer a variety of talk programs, according to Keith. "People have told us that this area needs a forum for discussion of local issues and problems. They want to hear elected officials and community leaders discussing issues in depth. That's exactly the kind of forum KSER can provide. It's part of our reason for existence."

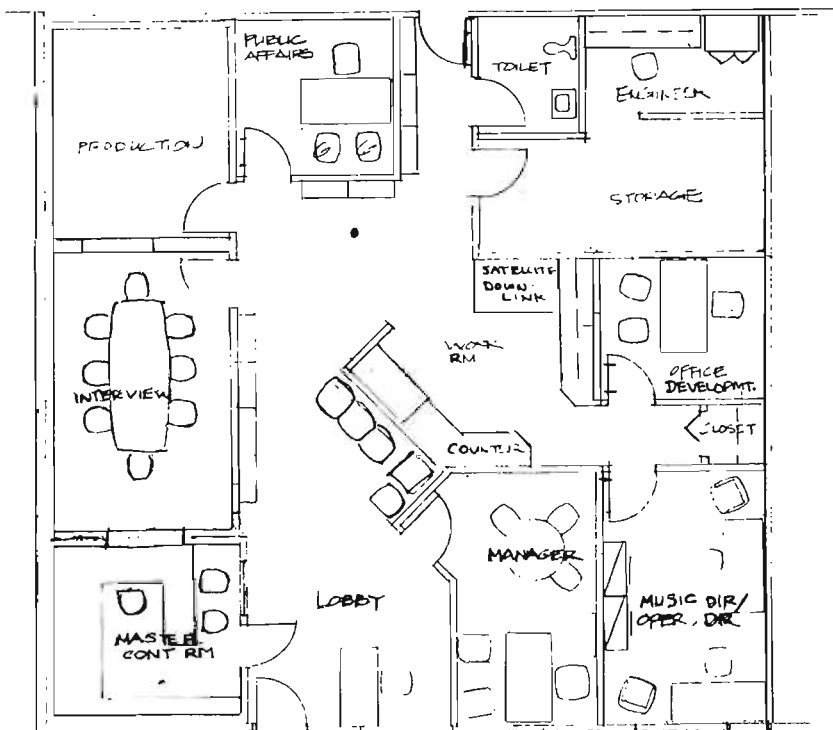
Keith says KSER already has 30 volunteers working to produce programs on local topics — from education, government and environment to business issues and senior citizens. In addition, the station will broadcast interviews, panel discussions, listener call-ins and commentaries.

"We also have a Citizens Advisory

Council with members from around Snohomish County," added Keith. Advisory Council members are Robert Anderson and Margaret Bernard, Edmonds; Paul Shaner, Kenmore; James Sneddon, Lynnwood; Doris Sinclair, Lake Stevens; and Steve Burr, Ewell Madry, Margaret Riddle, Jim Rondeau and Nancy Weis, Everett.

Financial support for KSER will be sought from a combination of listener subscriptions, business underwriters and grants from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, as well as from the Jack Straw Foundation.

KSER's staff has moved into the new studios at 14920 Highway 99, Lynnwood, WA 98037, tel. 742-1146 or 742-4541.



Like to Produce Your Own Audio Tapes?

Jack Straw Production Wants to Hear From You

The Jack Straw Foundation will soon open audio production facilities at our new offices in the University District. There are two production studios with analog and digital recording capability, a large variable acoustic studio for recording music and drama, a smaller studio primarily for recording voice, and an analog editing studio. In addition to basic recording equipment, a variety of sound processing gear is available. Jack Straw will use these studios to produce programs for regional and national distribution. We will also offer training sessions for beginners and advanced audio producers. These will include ongoing classes in basic audio production as well as special workshops on radio drama, music production, voice training, and other topics. The studios will be available at low cost to independent radio producers, musicians, and other nonprofit and commercial users.

We have developed the following survey to better serve potential users of Jack Straw's production center. If you would be interested in using the studio or taking a workshop, please answer the questions below. If you know anyone who might be interested, please give them a copy of this survey, or give them our address and phone number. Please return completed surveys to **Production Center Survey, The Jack Straw Foundation, 4261 Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105, (206) 634-0919**. Thank you for your help and interest.

STUDIO USE

Do you currently use a production or recording studio? If so, which one(s)?

How much does it cost to use?

How often, and for how long, do you use this studio?

What do you use the studio for? (Example: editing, post-production, recording music or voice, etc.)

Do you work with an engineer?

What things do you like about the facility you currently use?

What things are missing from your current facility?

What else can you tell us about that facility?

Would you be interested in using the Jack Straw production facility?

What would you use our facility for?

How often, and for how long, would you use the facility?

Would you need to work with an engineer?

Would you like us to send you a list of the Jack Straw production center's equipment?

Is there any special equipment you would like to see at the Jack Straw studios?

Do you have any other questions about the Jack Straw facility?

TRAINING

Are you interested in attending training sessions in any of the following subject areas? If so, check any that apply:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> basic production | <input type="checkbox"/> feature production | <input type="checkbox"/> interviewing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> radio theater | <input type="checkbox"/> multi-track production | <input type="checkbox"/> scripting for radio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> music recording | <input type="checkbox"/> editing | <input type="checkbox"/> marketing radio programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> documentary production | <input type="checkbox"/> voice training | <input type="checkbox"/> microphone techniques |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other topics: | | |

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Has your organization ever had a Public Service Announcement produced?

If so, where did you have it produced?

How much did it cost?

Would you be interested in making PSA's at Jack Straw's production facility?

Name

Address

City

State, ZIP

Phone number(s)

KING-AM's Siegal is Social Advocate

**GOOD
RADIO**



by Ron Putnam

Radio can be more than a wasteland of questionable entertainment and partial news and information. Talk radio is proving that radio can be socially responsible. In the Greater Seattle market, the air is filled mostly with clones of one format or

another, wasting radio spectrum space and kilowatt hours.

An exception that has proven the viability of advocate talk radio is the Mike Siegal show on KING-AM during the afternoon drive-time slot. Mike's show is conducted with a general high level of intelligence, awareness and commitment. Though I think he has his moments of sheer stupidity, such as his opposition to mandatory seatbelt use — why not oppose other safety equipment as well, such as brakes and lights? — I admire him for his other stands. Nobody's perfect.

Mike has worked diligently to bring about judicial review. He was a major contributor to the uprising over the Congressional pay raise, and spearheaded the local Boycott Exxon movement and other actions aimed at pressuring that company to take responsibility for its practices.

These are only a few actions that are more than surface deep. They are proof that radio can be a positive force to advance society.

Editor's note: Ron Putnam, Chief Engineer for Jack Straw, is currently on extended leave.

Production Center Manager Named

New Staff Member Brings Talent, Enthusiasm to Jack Straw Facility



Charles Hamilton

The Jack Straw Foundation has hired Charles Hamilton to be the manager of its new production facility. Hamilton has followed academic and public broadcasting careers since he discovered the joys of audio in college. While in graduate school, he volunteered at community station KFAI in Minneapolis, and became thoroughly hooked. Since then, he has managed the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's training programs, been the Assistant General Manager at public station WBJC in Baltimore, and taught broadcasting and communication at the University of Maryland and George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Hamilton was selected from a field of

31 applicants from all over the country. The hiring committee, composed of Jack Straw board and staff members, was unanimous in its choice. According to Joan Rabinowitz, Interim Production Manager, "We are very lucky to have a manager who is so experienced and well-connected in the non-commercial broadcasting system."

Charlie holds a B.A. in International Relations from The Johns Hopkins University, an M.A. in Mass Communication and Speech from the University of Minnesota, and will complete a Ph.D. in Public Communication from the University of Maryland this fall.

September 1990 Vol. 7 / No. 2

"JSMF Public Radio News" (USPS 671-470) is published quarterly by the Jack Straw Foundation, 4261 Roosevelt Way N.E., Seattle, WA 98105-6999. Second-class postage paid at Seattle, WA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to JSMF Public Radio News, 4261 Roosevelt Way N.E., Seattle, WA 98105-6999.

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